

FCC representative,

As a voting citizen of the United States, civil liberties are important to me. I agree that government authorities should be able to access the ability to monitor communications for many compelling social safety and security reasons. Any official should have to go through a process of getting a warrant from a court, similar to the telephone wiretapping procedures, before ever monitoring anyones internet activity, cellphone, email or any personal communication. It is a harsh reality that keeping our open society may mean tolerating some vulnerability. We can find innovative ways to have a public process of approving the monitoring of individuals for a specific court warranted period and purpose that will allow us to cope with covert gangster, terrorist and other illegal activities while preserving the free society we have. How can we be truly free to innovate, learn, understand the world and be a leading nation therein if we feel the slightest threat of being observed by our government which may interpret our information access without a compelling interest in our true character or motives? Perhaps we will make the grave mistake of failing to know our enemy if we attack the civil liberties of our free and loyal citizens instead of learning to be victorious over whatever threatens us. Suppose a person wants to understand the conflicts in the world. Let's say he is a U.S. citizen, whose aim is to do something to promote peace and understanding or to find a way to oppose the enemies of his country or atleast speak out against them. It may require using as much diverse source material as possible. He may speak to foreigners, read their viewpoints and declarations, access their media and other communication sources. What if this access was misinterpreted by his own government as an effort to collaborate with foreign elements and they bring a McCarthyistic scrutiny down upon someone who may ultimately be helping our cause. I always brag to my European friends that we don't have propoganda in the U.S., because in our free society we can view all the sources of information and draw our own conclusions and effect our future with our voting rights. This must remain true, it is the core of what we are defending. If the government can show a need for a wiretap, fibertap or wireless monitoring of the digital communication of its citizens, let them prove it and get a warrant before monitoring us. Let these warrants expire and fall under review for a compelling reason. Let us require that they be re-evaluated before renewal. That is how a free society functions. -Paul Luscher